

Amendment
Appn. No. 10/735,192

5000-1-501

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of rejection in the Office Action and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 11-18 and 20 remain pending herein, and claims 1-10 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 20 are independent claims.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 6-326285 (JP'285). Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Strand *et al.* (U.S. 5,846,694) ("Strand"). Claims 1-10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Sun *et al.* (U.S. 5,064,266) ("Sun") in view of Strand. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection for the reasons indicated herein below.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cancellation of claims 1-10 and 19 renders moot all of the art-based rejections.

With regard to the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully submits that the structure of the claim has been amended to recite the optical module that now contains clarified recitation of the positions of the elements relative to each other. For example, claim 20 now recites: a planar lightwave circuit (PLC) comprising a lower cladding layer and a core layer arranged on a substrate to form a PLC area, an upper cladding layer arranged on the PLC area and a lens forming area

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adjacent the PLC area; and a lens comprising a controlled reflow of the upper cladding arranged on the lens forming area. Support is shown in FIG. 10(e) and FIG. 11 with PLC 110 and lens 106.

The optical module as recited in claim 20 provides the microlens integrated in the optical module with the PLC, providing advantages such as more accurate and easier alignment than known heretofore (specification at page 10, lines 21-22). Accordingly, the optical module as recited in claim 20 is novel and would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, in view of either the art of record in the application or being within the level of ordinary skill of an artisan.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the grounds of rejection against claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are now overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all grounds of rejection in the Office Action are overcome. A Notice of Allowance for claims 11-18 and 20 is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

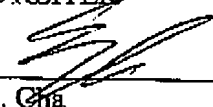
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If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Application, it is respectfully requested that the Applicant's attorney of record be contacted at the below-noted telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

CHA & REITER

By: 
Steve S. Cha
Attorney for Applicants

Date: 12/3/07

Mail all correspondence to:
CHA & REITER
210 Route 4 East, #103
Paramus, NJ 07652
Phone: (201) 226-9245
Fax: (201) 226-9246
SC/sg